

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday June 25th, 2023

North Dublin Radio Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year

The North Dublin Radio Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. To celebrate, club members will be QRV during the year with the special callsign, EI50NDR. On June 17th, the club held its AGM, electing a new committee and making plans for the coming year. The Chairman, Tony EI5EM, welcomed the members and in his address, outlined the history of the club. He noted how membership of the club has increased greatly over the past few years by the influx of new enthusiastic members. The Treasurer, Tony EI6K, reported that the club is in a healthy financial position. The Willie Barron Memorial Trophy was awarded to Brendan Kelly EI4EPB for his great work and support of the club over many years. It was well merited and congratulations to Brendan. The outgoing secretary Brendan was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. However, he addressed the meeting by telephone. Annard EI4IQB is leaving EI to return to the Netherlands. Tony EI5EM wished him well and told him that his EI4IQB maritime mobile call from Poolbeg Marina will be missed. With that, the meeting concluded for photographs to mark this special year for the club.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

The June meeting of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC will take place tomorrow night, Monday June 26th at 8 p.m. sharp at the New Community Men's Shed, Ozanam Centre, Coffee House Lane, Waterford. New members, or anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio or the group are as always very welcome to attend. Information about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group can be found on their website www.searg.ie, via email to [southeasternarg /at/ gmail.com](mailto:southeasternarg/at/gmail.com), and their social media channels.

Collective Communication

On Saturday July 1st, a Midsummer Madness Meeting of Collective Communication members and their partners is planned at Jack Meades' Gastro Bar & Beer Garden in Waterford. Intended not so much as a radio club meeting but more of a family social gathering, it's a chance for club members and their partners to have a get together over a drink and some food in the hopefully warm summer environment of County Waterford from around 2pm onwards. EI3CC is a collective club not an exclusive one. The event is open to all radio amateurs, SWLs, their partners, and family. They welcome you to join them on Saturday 1st July from 2pm onwards for a little midsummer madness at Jack Meades, Waterford, Eircode X91 NY64

CW Field Day Results

Results of the IRTS CW Field Day, held over the first weekend of June have now been published. Three EI field day stations submitted logs; Jim EI4HH, who set up his station in Kiltarnan, Co. Dublin, Avondhu Radio Club, station operator Gerard EI5KF, from a site north of Clonmel Co. Tipperary, and Joe EI7GY who was on the slopes of Round Hill, Co. Wicklow. Full results for this contest may be seen at www.irts.ie/results

This field day coincided with the IARU Region 1 CW Field Day organised by DARC, the German National Society and with separate CW Field Days organised by UK and Swiss national societies. As a result, there was plenty of activity around Europe with more than 100 portable stations operating under field day conditions.

Contest and Events

A reminder that the 2023 IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day takes place over the weekend of Saturday the 1st and Sunday the 2nd of July, from 1400 UTC Saturday until 1400 UTC Sunday. There will be five separate contests covering the 6m, 4m, 2m, 70m, and 23m bands. Stations may enter a contest on one or more bands. A 24-hour section and a restricted 6-hour section are available. More details and a full list of rules can be found at www.irts.ie/rules

For digital mode fans, a RSGB FT4 contest takes place Monday 26th June from 1900 to 2030 UTC. Six sections are available for entrants and the contest will take place on the 80, 40, and 20 metre bands. Further information may be found at www.rsgbcc.org

Solar Cycle 25 Update

The sun has been particularly energetic over recent days. Active regions can lead to flares which are classified according to their strength in a similar fashion as the Richter scale is for earthquakes. The most intense flares are classified as X-class. A strong X1 flare occurred on June 20th resulting in a short-term HF radio blackout in the sunlight parts of Earth which included Ireland at the time. This was the first X-class flare since March of this year. Overall, the number of sunspots recorded over recent months is trending higher than what was predicted. The probability of further flare activity is increased as a result.

New AMSAT-UK Award

As the upper atmosphere and ionosphere of the earth becomes warmer and expands due to the increased solar activity, it can increase the drag on low earth orbit satellites. One of the expected casualties of this will be the Nayif-1 EO88 amateur satellite. AMSAT-UK is offering two awards for the station that submits the last telemetry from the satellite and to whomever guesses the re-entry time and date most accurately. You can find more information about this at amsat-uk.org.

Ofcom UK planning to updating their amateur radio licensing framework

Ofcom UK, the UK's communications services regulator, published a consultation document regarding proposed changes to amateur radio licences. It has sparked a lot of interest and discussion. They are proposing changes to their amateur radio licences and policies to help meet the needs of their current and future amateur radio users. The proposals include maintaining their current three-tier licence framework, an increase to 1000 Watts peak envelope power for full licensees in bands where amateur radio has a primary allocation, and permit the deployment of repeaters, beacons, and gateways without requiring a notice of variation in most cases. You can find the document at www.ofcom.org.uk

HF Newsreaders Urgently Required

HF newsreaders are urgently required for the weekly Sunday morning 40m and 80m IRTS news bulletin rota. The rota is to share the news reading duties amongst the entire panel of newsreaders

and it ensures that the workload is evenly spread out. The more people that volunteer the less often each individual reader will have to do the reading. There is very little involved in the reading and no experience is necessary. If any licensed IRTS member living in EI feels like that they would be interested in becoming part of the IRTS News Readers panel, please get in touch with the IRTS News Coordinator Seany EI2HZB directly on 083 4713001 or by email to [irts_PRO /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_PRO@irts.ie).

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to [newsteam/at/irts/dot/ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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